



# Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ** Forty-second Assembly District

Proudly Serving: West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Westwood, Century City, Bel Air, Brentwood, Hollywood, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Universal City, Hancock Park, West Los Angeles

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## **NEWS FROM THE 42<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT**

### **Assemblyman's Message**

Welcome to "News from the 42<sup>nd</sup> District," my electronic newsletter designed to help keep you informed of happenings in the State Capitol and 42<sup>nd</sup> District. In this issue, I will update you on the status of my legislative proposals and other important bills, provide information about the budget bill recently signed by the governor, as well as other important Capitol and District information that I would like to share with you. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find the information useful.

*Paul*

[Community  
Calendar](#)

[August, 2005](#)  
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### **AB 111 Signed by Governor, Should Ease Burdens on Restaurants, Bars, & Nightclubs**

I'm very excited to let you know about one of my bills, AB 111, that was recently signed by Governor Schwarzenegger and will go into effect on January 1, 2006. This new law makes a minor but important change to current Alcohol Beverage and Control law which could affect your business.

Under current law, if your establishment has an ABC license to sell alcohol for on-site consumption, you are entitled to apply for a one-day special event permit authorizing you to sell alcohol for consumption outside of your establishment by those who are attending any number of the numerous street festivals for which West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Los Angeles are famous. A prime example of this is the Annual Christopher Street West Parade and Festival in West Hollywood. This two day event is large and well-attended, drawing a big and diverse crowd to West Hollywood from all over the country.

However, as I have been hearing from many bars and restaurants in my district, ABC's current special event permits are only good for one day, and a licensee may apply for a special event permit only once every quarter. These time restrictions may adversely affect a bar or restaurant's ability to do business for the duration of any weekend-long event. In addition, some bars and restaurants find it necessary to obtain these special event permits to replace the clients they would normally serve but who cannot access their establishment due to the various street access restrictions of the event itself. [Cont'd on page 6](#)

### **Koretz Assists Congressman Berman with Securing Funding for 405 HOV Lane**

Good news for commuters on the northbound 405 Freeway! As was just announced earlier this week, Congressman Howard Berman (D-Van Nuys), was successful in securing \$130 million in federal transportation funds to jumpstart the construction of the car-pool lane on the northbound San Diego Freeway from the Santa Monica Freeway to the Ventura Freeway.

It was my pleasure to spearhead an effort here in Sacramento, and to work with Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association President Richard Close, to assist the Congressman in securing the Governor's active support of this project. This stretch of freeway remains one of the most congested in the state, and upon behalf of the commuting public, deserves top priority ranking in Southern California transportation issues.

In late June, Congressman Berman announced via the Los Angeles Daily News that the Governor had proposed blocking funding to fast track this project in favor of securing funding for the movement of freight traffic through the Alameda Corridor, a pet project of his campaign chairman Congressman David Dreier.

I was joined by all nine members of the Assembly and Senate who represent the San Fernando Valley in addressing this enormously important matter by signing a letter my office drafted to the Governor urging him to

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## Happenings in the 42<sup>nd</sup> District

After we went to press with my last newsletter this past May, I had a very busy month with lots of events occurring in the district. Here is a sampling of what I have been up to:

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, I held a **Financial Literacy Town Hall** for my constituents at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn in North Hollywood. The program was led by local members of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, and was co-sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles. A special workshop called "Dollars and Sense" was presented to those in attendance and covered topics such as tax write-offs, retirement planning, saving for college, debt management, and other important financial information. I was very pleased to get an opportunity to greet each participant and personally thank them for attending. Events like this are a great way for me to interact with my constituents and provide a community service at the same time. I want to thank those that attended, and hope that the information and materials provided will help people to navigate through the very complicated maze of money management. If you would like more information about this event or would like to arrange the "Dollars and Sense" workshop for a community group, please call my District Office at (310) 285-5490 or (818) 902-0521.



On May 12<sup>th</sup>, I was honored to meet the new **Consul General of Israel, Ehud Danoch** and his wife Miki Danoch, at a celebration for the State of Israel's 57<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Anniversary. It was a joyous occasion and my pleasure to attend. Also, in celebration of Israel's 57<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Anniversary it was my pleasure to attend the Israeli Independence Day Festival this year at Woodley Park on May 15<sup>th</sup>. My office had a booth at the festival and my staff and I were able to meet and speak with many festival participants. The weather was very nice this year for the festival. Those of you who attended last year might remember that the temperature was in the triple digits. HOT!!! I always look forward to this annual event and hope to see you there next year.



On May 19<sup>th</sup>, it was my pleasure to hold an open house in my district office. The event was a great success. Nearly 200 people from the community attended—it was crowded but I was so happy to see everyone and get a chance to connect with the folks that I represent in Sacramento. It was also a great way for the community to meet my district staff and learn about the services that my district office provides. I want to thank all the people that attended as well as my staff and volunteers that put the event together.



### SUMMER SAFETY:

#### PARENTS & GUARDIANS CAN PREVENT DROWNING

During the summer, the use of swimming pools, spas, and wading pools will increase, and sadly so will the number of drowning accidents. Owning a swimming pool/spa is terrific, but they can be dangerous!

Do not become complacent when dealing with security around your pool area. Always keep an eye on children, whether in the house or outside. Supervision is essential when it involves water safety with children and adults! Many communities have enacted safety regulations governing residential swimming pools, in ground and above ground. It is up to parents to comply with these regulations.

Apart from these laws, parents who own pools can take their own precautions to reduce the chances of their youngsters accessing the family pool or spa without adult supervision. The key to preventing these tragedies is to have layers of protection, including:

- ✓ placing barriers around your pool to prevent access,
- ✓ using pool alarms,
- ✓ closely supervising your child and
- ✓ being prepared in case of an emergency.

Also be prepared with preventative measures whether at a family swimming party, water park, lake, pond, river, in the ocean or out boating.

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### Community Update

This past February, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rejected our state's request for Federal individual and household assistance for damage the winter storm caused earlier this year, Assemblyman Koretz took action.

Upon the rejection by FEMA of the request from our Governor for Federal assistance on behalf of the February storm victims, Assemblyman Koretz circulated a letter to FEMA that was signed by the 48 members of the State Assembly who represent constituents impacted by damage. This letter (see attached or a similar description of where shown in newsletter) has been sent to FEMA and was distributed to our Southern California Congressional delegation.

Assemblyman Koretz and his staff have maintained contact with the State Office of Emergency Services since early in January when it became clear that severe and widespread damage throughout Southern California would make the State eligible for Federal Assistance.

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## Chamber Member Profile: Sunset 8335

Sunset 8335 is the newest member of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. This new company has turned a run-down West Hollywood eyesore from an embarrassment and a risk to the community into a thriving business center that now fills an important market need. Sunset 8335 created a solution for today's "small flex-space users" in a modern office building that attracts the entertainment industry, new business and revenues into West Hollywood.

Business continues to redefine itself. Sunset 8335's custom and innovative approach to business is intended to provide the best technology that today's businesses demand. Every detail is designed to make the business of conducting business easy for their tenants - from the multi-colored cable wiring which represent the many "flavors" of technology in the building, to "plug and play" technology, T-1 data, and sophisticated voice systems.

Throughout the life of this project, Christine Van Scoy and her team worked very closely with the City of West Hollywood, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the Sunset Strip Business Improvement District. This close partnership and collaboration on the city's Sunset

Specific Plan helped them understand the needs and goals of the community and integrate them with their goals and objectives.

Sunset 8335 received the 2004 Small Business of the Year Award from the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Sunset 8335 was recognized by BOMA for their involvement with the community of West Hollywood and received the Small Office Building honorable mention.

Redevelopment and creativity has allowed Sunset 8335 to respond to the growing challenges and demands of today's amazing entrepreneurs and small businesses. Technology. Architecture. Sleek interiors, finishes and appointments. A smart building wired for internet access that displays the wiring as art; art that represents the renewed vitality of the building along the Sunset Strip. Sunset 8335 is proud to be part of the West Hollywood community and looks forward to contributing further to West Hollywood. For information please contact Christine Van Scoy 323.656.7100 and visit their web site at

[www.sunset8335.com](http://www.sunset8335.com)

### CONSTITUENT PROFILES

Every year, Christopher Street West (CSW) honors individuals who are dedicated leaders in and true champions for the GLBT community. As part of the nomination process, locally elected officials are asked to submit names for consideration. I would like to congratulate my nominees for their awards.

**Howard Jacobs**, a West Hollywood resident, received the Berman Schaeffer Award, which is given to an individual who has made a noticeable and positive impression on the community.

Howard Jacobs has been a dedicated advocate for the LGBT community and people living with HIV, and he has served in organizations which further these goals. Howard served as a staff member and a volunteer with AIDS Project Los Angeles. Howard also served as Deputy to West Hollywood City Councilmember Jeffrey Prang, and worked for Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Services, Inc. (G.L.A.S.S.). He is on the Board of Directors of Being Alive/People with AIDS Action Coalition Los Angeles, and served as its President in 2003-04.

Named APLA's 1995 Volunteer of the Year, Howard was honored for his leadership in government affairs where much of his involvement included speaking at public education forums on HIV prevention and at large events such as the AIDS Walk. Howard has assisted in the development of annual county, state, and federal lobby days for people affected and infected by HIV. Each year since 1990, people with AIDS visit their elected officials in Sacramento,

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## Upcoming Awareness Months

I would like to inform you of up-coming awareness events in the community. I encourage you to become involved. Please feel free to contact my district office at (310) 285-5490 for more information.

### AUGUST

California Child Support Awareness Month  
Valley Fever Awareness Month  
National Back to School Month – America Goes Back to School  
Crime Prevention – National Night Out on August 2  
National KIDS Day on August 7  
Women's Equality Day on August 26

### SEPTEMBER

National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month  
Teen Age Pregnancy Awareness Month  
National Hispanic Heritage Month  
National School Success Month  
Suicide Prevention Awareness Week (Sept. 4-Sept 10)

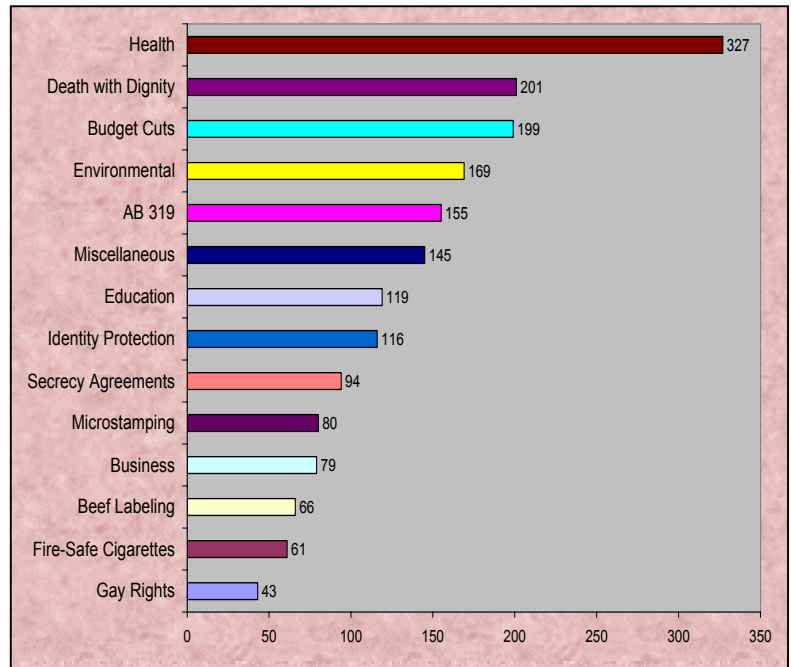
### OCTOBER

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
National Domestic Violence Prevention Month  
National Disability Employment Awareness Month  
National Brain Injury Awareness Month  
National School Safety Month  
Clean Air Month  
"Talk About Prescriptions" Month  
National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend (October 7-9)  
National Fire Prevention Week (October 9-15)  
Red Ribbon Week – School Anti-Drug Campaign (October 23-31)  
Make a Difference Day on October 22



### ISSUES OF CONCERN TO YOU

Throughout the year, our office receives thousands of letters, calls and e-mails regarding public policy and quality of life issues on a variety of topics. The graph to the right describes the quantity of contacts we've received per issue. As of July 15, 1005, we have recorded a total of 1,854 contacts. The greatest concern has been around health issues, with a total of 327 contacts. 201 individuals wrote in about the "Death with Dignity" bill that applies to patients with terminal illnesses. 199 contacts were received in opposition to the proposed budget cuts in the State. Environmental concerns accounted for 169 contacts. 155 people wrote in about Assembly Bill 319, co-authored by Assemblymember Koretz, to protect children from plastic-based products that may contain toxic materials. 145 contacts were distributed throughout the issue spectrum and classified here as miscellaneous. Educational issues accounted for 169 contacts, 116 about identity protection and 94 about secrecy agreements. 80 people wrote to support AB352, a bill by Assemblymember Koretz that would make automatic handguns imprint, or "microstamp," a gun's serial number onto the casing of each bullet it fires, making it easier to solve crimes. 79 people wrote in regarding business issues. 66 people were in support of another Koretz bill to require beef in California to identify its country of origin. 61 wrote about an additional Koretz bill to make cigarettes "fire-safe," a technology that makes cigarettes self-extinguishing. Finally, 43 pieces of communication were received around gay rights or LGBT issues.



### Non-Profit Profile: SFV Financial Development Corp.

The San Fernando Valley Financial Development Corporation (SFV-FDC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing our community's businesses through strategic partnerships with government organizations and non-profit groups. SFV-FDC was created in November 2002 when the Valley Economic Development Center (VEDC) was awarded a Small Business Financial Development Corporation from the State of California-Technology, Trade and

Commerce Agency. Since its inception, the SFV-FDC has provided 123 businesses with loan guarantees which have resulted in over \$22 million in loans. As a result of those loans a total of 2,086 jobs were saved and 555 more were created.

In the 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, 9 loan guarantees have been made to businesses resulting in loans of over \$2 Million. This investment translated in to a total of 132 jobs being saved and 48 additional jobs being created.

The State Loan Guarantee Program helps lenders make loans to borrowers who cannot qualify for conventional financing. According to VEDC's Director of Lending, Vladimir Victorio the FDC helps business owners dreams come true and says, "The FDC has made a tremendous impact on area businesses with this program. The State Loan Guarantee Program works; it gives business owners a second chance to build a good working relationship with a bank while giving them immediate access to the capital that they need; what a great tool to keep businesses and jobs in California."

For more information on the San Fernando Valley Financial Development Corp. State Loan Guarantee Program or any of the programs of the VEDC please contact 818-907-9977 or log on to [www.vedc.org](http://www.vedc.org)

### New Leadership in Los Angeles: Antonio Villaraigosa & Bill Rosendahl

Congratulations to Antonio Villaraigosa and Bill Rosendahl on their recent elections as Los Angeles Mayor and 11<sup>th</sup> District City Councilmember, respectively. I look forward to working with them.

**Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa** is a native of Los Angeles and has dedicated his life and career to public service and his community. In 1994, Antonio was elected to the State Assembly, and just four years later, his colleagues in the legislature voted to make him the first Assembly Speaker from Los Angeles in 25 years. As Speaker, Antonio earned praise for building broad, bi-partisan coalitions to make progress on important issues, including: the state's landmark legislation to modernize public schools; the toughest assault weapons ban in the country; the largest urban neighborhood parks initiative in America; and, the "Healthy Families" program that provides health care for more than 600,000 California children. Throughout his career, Antonio has earned bi-partisan praise for his bold vision and leadership, his ability to bring people together to find common ground, and his proven record of achieving results for the people of our state and our city.

As a labor leader, civic leader and elected official, he has led the fight to improve our schools, protect the rights of working people, provide health care for uninsured children and make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. [Cont'd on page 8](#)





## Staff Profile: Sandra DeBourelando

Sandra DeBourelando is Assemblyman Koretz's Principal Assistant and also the Consultant to his Select Committee on Gun Violence. She possesses a diverse background in health care, environmental, education, budget, as well as gun violence prevention matters.

Of the many issues Sandra works on for Assemblyman Koretz, gun violence prevention is near the top of her list. She credits Koretz with raising her awareness about the epidemic of gun violence in our society, and says that working with the Assemblyman to help enact some sensible gun violence prevention laws has been extremely rewarding.

In addition, she is the point person for Mr. Koretz on the Assembly floor, providing analyses, background information, and recommendations on all measures that will be voted on by the body. She performs similar duties for the Assemblyman in his capacity as a member of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.

Sandra joined the Koretz capitol staff in 2001. Prior to that she was the Legislative Director for then Assemblywoman Sally Havice. In that position, Sandra was instrumental in helping to establish the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

A seasoned legislative and political consultant, Sandra draws on her extensive policy and political experience. Prior to joining the Assembly staff, she served variously as Campaign Manager, Public Policy and Administrative Director, and Legislative and Development Director for several legislative candidates and numerous ballot measure campaigns.

Born, raised, and educated in Pennsylvania, Sandra received her Bachelor of Science from Seton Hill College, and her Masters of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh, where she was the President of the Graduate School of Public Health and the Chairperson of the Graduate Student Body Association.

Sandra notes that politics is such a big part of her life that she actually met the man who is now her husband, who is a legislative advocate, at a political event for a local congressman. The congressman later officiated at their wedding ceremony.

### 2005 BUDGET UPDATE

The 2005-2006 State Budget was passed by the Legislature on July 7th and subsequently signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on July 11th. This budget was one of the earliest in recent history. The \$117 billion dollar budget bill is the state's spending plan for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and authorizes expenditures for areas such as education, prisons, and health care.

Along with the main budget bill, the Legislature also passed 12 "trailer bills" which contain any necessary statutory changes to accompany the priorities set out in the budget. Although the budget was signed late, lawmakers from both sides and the Governor praised each other for working hard to come to agreement on some of the state's stickiest issues.

Due to an upturn in state revenue, this budget package was not as painful as expected. This budget is a balanced, responsible budget for Californians that contains no new taxes and no new borrowing. It protects funding for health care, services for seniors, and transportation.

In addition, the pain begins to ease on cities and counties a bit as they will see more revenue coming to their coffers as a result of this budget, including an early payback of the Vehicle License Fee loan that the state owed to local government.

Even though this budget increases per pupil spending by \$384, it unfortunately does not include \$3 billion for education that Assembly Democrats fought for in May and June. But they will continue to make that additional funding for school children a priority and hope that bipartisan agreement can be reached on that as well. Other highlights of the 2005-2006 State Budget include:

- ✓ Protects our most vulnerable: seniors, the poor and disabled.
- ✓ Protects basic safety net services for seniors and the poor.
- ✓ Dedicates \$1.3 billion in gasoline tax revenues to highway improvements
- ✓ No new taxes and no new borrowing

*"Democrats and Republicans have come together in the past several months to craft a budget for California that puts us back on track to begin work again in a bipartisan fashion to deal with the problems California has and to find common ground."*

*-- Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez*

### 2005 -2006 LEGISLATION UPDATE

When the Legislature reconvenes in mid-August, legislators will have just four weeks to get their bills passed and to the Governor by the September 9th deadline in order to become effective January 1, 2006. Any bill that does not make this deadline will become a two-year bill and may be eligible for consideration for next year.

Some of the more high profile bills that are pending final passage this year include:

**AB 48 (Lieber) Minimum Wage** – would increase the state's minimum wage to \$7.25 on July 1, 2006, and to \$7.75 on July 1, 2007. The bill also provides for an annual adjustment of the minimum wage, by tying future increases to the California Consumer Price Index. California's current minimum wage of \$6.75 is 98 cents below the federal poverty level for a family of three.

**AB 352 (Koretz) Microstamping of Firearms** – would help law enforcement solve firearm related crimes, by requiring that all new semiautomatic handguns sold in California be equipped with technology that would imprint the serial number on a fired cartridge shell.

**AB 849 (Leno) Marriage Equality** – this measure mirrors AB 19 and would ensure equal treatment under the law by allowing same-sex couples to marry in California. The bill also reaffirms that no religious institution would ever be required to

[Cont'd on page 8](#)

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## IMPORTANT LABOR BILLS FOR WORKING FAMILIES PENDING IN LEGISLATURE

Despite the fact that the current occupant of the Governor's office is not exactly labor-friendly, it is important that we continue to work aggressively and proactively to fight for California's working families. The following measures are currently moving through the Legislature and hopefully will be on the Governor's desk in the near future. As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment, I am proud to have supported each of the following bills as they came through Committee:

[AB 48 \(Lieber\)](#) – Increases the state minimum wage and indexes it to the cost of inflation.

[AB 51 \(Koretz\)](#) – Imposes minimal graduation requirements on our state-funded apprenticeship programs to ensure accountability and eliminate fraud.

[AB 169 \(Oropeza\)](#) – Increases penalties for employers who discriminate against employees in pay on the basis of gender.

[AB 391 \(Koretz\)](#) – Provides unemployment insurance benefits to workers who are ready, willing and able to work but have been locked out through no fault of their own.

[AB 755 \(De La Torre\)](#) – Ensures that piece rate workers are provided rest periods.

[AB 805 \(Chu\)](#) – Increases protections for workers and help employers to recognize and prevent heat illness.

[AB 875 \(Koretz\)](#) – Strengthens enforcement in the underground economy by coordinating efforts of our labor law and tax enforcement entities.

[AB 1184 \(Koretz\)](#) – Prohibits mandatory overtime for nurses in our state facilities.

[AB 1310 \(Nunez\)](#) – Requires large employers that pressure workers to retire early to provide workers with sufficient information to make an informed decision.

[SB 300 \(Kuehl\)](#) – Strengthens and expands current state law concerning family and medical leave.

[SB 363 \(Perata\)](#) – Requires hospitals to adopt "zero lift" policies for patient transfers rather than forcing nurses to transfer patients by themselves.

[SB 848 \(Dunn\)](#) – Helps our struggling port truck drivers by authorizing them to organize collectively.

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING

The California Department of Aging serves as both a unifying force for services to seniors and adults with disabilities and as a focal point for federal, state and local agencies which serve the elderly and adults with disabilities in California. It fulfills the goals outlined in the Older Americans Act and also acts as an advocate for seniors and adults with disabilities by striving to develop an environment which respects and values the state's older residents and adults with disabilities.

As the designated State Unit on Aging, the California Department of Aging is part of the California Health and Human Services Agency. The Department administers Older Americans Act programs for supportive services, in-home services, congregate and home-delivered meals and a system of multipurpose senior centers. It also administers the program for community service employment; programs for advocacy and protection; and programs which provide health insurance counseling, case management, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center and Adult Day Health Care services. Further, it performs a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning, coordination, interagency linkages, information sharing,

Here is a list of services provided by the Department of Aging. If you need assistance, please contact them at 1-800-510-2020.

**Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)** - A day care program which provides health, therapeutic, and social services to serve the specialized needs of frail elderly as well as adults with functional impairments at risk of institutionalization.

**Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers (ADCRC)** - Day care for persons with Alzheimer's disease (and other related dementias) who are often unable to be served by other programs. The centers provide respite as well as training and support for families and professional caregivers.

**Brown Bag Program** - Volunteers collect and distribute surplus food to low-income seniors.

**California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** - Professional staff and trained volunteers investigate and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long term care facilities.

**Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)** Provides both community education sessions open to the public and individualized one-to-one counseling on Medicare, managed care, and other private health insurance issues.

**Information & Assistance** - Trained staff provide information as well as assistance and follow-up to link seniors and adults with functional impairments and their families with programs and services in their community.

**Legal Assistance** - Community programs provide legal information, advice, and counseling, as well as administrative and judicial representation for seniors.

**Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)** - Provides social and health case management to assist persons aged 65 and over, eligible for Medi-Cal and certifiable for skilled nursing care, to remain safely at home.

**Nutrition Services** - *Congregate Meals*: local programs provide seniors with nutritious meals in a group setting; *Home Delivered Meals*: local programs prepare and deliver nutritious meals to homebound seniors.

**Senior Companion Program** - Low-income senior volunteers provide peer support to frail older persons in their local communities.

### AB 111 – Cont'd from P.1

**AB 111 addresses these issues by allowing the ABC to issue special event permits that are valid for up to four days during any calendar year. Therefore, if you want to take advantage of the additional clientele from an event that lasts 2 days or longer, AB 111 allows you to obtain a permit to do just that.**

**My staff and I work hard in Sacramento to enact legislation that helps to solve problems in the business community. This bill should do just that. If there's ever anything else I can help you with, please don't hesitate to contact my office.**

**CARNEY'S RESTAURANT HONORED BY ASSEMBLYMAN PAUL KORETZ**

It was my great pleasure to honor Carney's restaurant this year with the "Salute to Small Business" award on June 15<sup>th</sup>. (See accompanying photo.)

As part of the California Small Business Day, sponsored by the California Small Business Association, I, along with many other CA State Legislators, honored a small business from our respective districts.

Carney's Restaurant has two locations in my Assembly District. Both locations are on major boulevards—Sunset and Ventura. Carney's signature train cars are landmark locations in Los Angeles for tourists as well as locals. I can personally attest to the delicious food and fun atmosphere of these beloved "hot spots."

Small businesses are the life blood of our economy and generate the majority of employment opportunities for our community. The purpose of the California Small Business Day is to recognize the contributions small business makes to California.

I chose to honor Carney's restaurant because it is a fun place to eat really great food. Carney's has played an important role in my life too. My surprise 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party was held at Carney's on Sunset. They've been in business a long time and deserve this recognition.



**Koretz Giving Award to John Wolfe, Owner of Carney's in LA**

**Berman/Koretz -- Cont'd from page 1**

reconsider his position. In the letter, we called upon the Governor to make the most aggressive case to federal authorities in support of this crucial project and to strongly commit to providing our share of state matching funds for the HOV lane planned for the 405 freeway in the highly congested areas of West Los Angeles, Westwood and the narrow Sepulveda Pass. In addition, community leaders such as Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association President Richard Close also organized community members to call and encourage the Governor to actively support this funding. By the afternoon of June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Governor's office announced that he would support this transportation allocation.

I commend Congressman Howard Berman for his leadership in working to obtain crucial funding for this project and for working with the public and other elected officials in building support. I spoke with the Congressman after the Governor changed his position, at which time he thanked me for taking the initiative to help raise the visibility of this issue in Sacramento that he believed helped to convince the Governor to reconsider his position and work to help ease congestion for the commuting public.

I plan on working with Congressman Berman and other Los Angeles elected officials to secure the remaining \$270 million needed to complete this project.

**Summer Safety -- Cont'd from page 2**

Further, I would also like to remind you of my bill that was signed into law last year, AB 2222. Anthony and Stacy's Law is intended to educate Californians about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning while boating in order to prevent further tragic, senseless deaths. This law prohibits anyone from operating a boat or having a boat engine running while someone is "teak surfing" behind the boat or occupying the swim platform, two very risky activities. Since about 1990, over 100 people in the United States have died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning while on or near boats. In California, dozens have been poisoned in recent years - many of them fatally.

Please take a moment and think of ways you and your family can remain safe this summer and all year long. I encourage you to check out the website <http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/courses/> for information about how to become certified in First Aid and CPR.

**FEMA/Storms -- Cont'd from page 2**

Our office has heard directly from a number of homeowners in the hillside communities who suffered from significant damage as a result of these storms. The officials at FEMA had granted all forms of assistance available for individual, household and government agencies for those victims of the late December and January storms who qualified, but not individual and household assistance for the February victims.

The problem seems to be that officials at FEMA made a policy ruling that the State of California cannot include February storm victims as part of the original January emergency declaration. The officials at the State Office of Emergency Services (OES) have claimed from the beginning that FEMA's interpretation was incorrect and there was no reason to demand that these declarations needed to be severed. Our office has thus been in contact with a number of our local Congressional offices informing them that it appears the FEMA interpretation is incorrect. Assemblyman Koretz has also asserted that it does not make sense that these series of storms are separate events when clearly many who suffered landslide and mud slide damage in February were as a result of an accumulation of rain that began in late December of 2004.

The State Assembly letter to FEMA was mailed shortly after the Governor's office filed an appeal and was also shared also shared with our Southern California Congressional delegation. Assemblyman Koretz stated: "I hope that with additional pressure from my colleagues and I, along with our Congressional delegation the officials at FEMA will recognize the absurdity of their original decision." Assemblyman Koretz added, "although I only heard from a handful of the February storm victims, I recognize that they are representative of several hundred victims in my district and thousands more throughout Southern California. We must not silently allow the Federal government to deny California taxpayers the assistance they are entitled to."



## 2005-06 Legislative Update – Cont'd from page 5

solemnize marriages contrary to its fundamental beliefs.

**SB 1 (Murray) One Million Solar Roofs Initiative** – would dramatically increase the use of solar power in the state by attempting to put one million solar units on California residential and commercial rooftops by the year 2018. SB 1 would offer incentives to new home buyers in the form of rebates. It will also require developers to offer solar electricity as an optional amenity – like tile entryways – and roll the system's cost into the home's mortgage payments

**SB 12 (Escutia) "Junk Food Out of Schools"** – would limit access to the sale of high fat, high sugar, high calorie foods in public schools to help improve the content of foods sold to California's students. This measure is intended to address California's increasing obesity epidemic among children in the state.

**SB 484 (Migden) Cosmetics Safety Bill** – would improve cosmetic safety by requiring manufacturers to disclose potentially harmful ingredients in its products that are linked to cancer or reproductive toxicity. The Department of Health Services would have authority to investigate these products for toxic chemicals.

**SB 1018 (Simitian) Elder Financial Abuse** – would require employees of financial institutions – including banks and credit unions – to report any suspected financial elderly abuse. These reports would trigger a response by local agencies to investigate and intervene to help prevent financial loss. Bank employees would join other mandated reporters of elder abuse, including health care professionals, social workers, nursing home workers, and clergy.

## Constituent Profiles -- Cont'd from page 3

Washington DC, and at the local level. Thanks to Howard's intense community organizing these lobby days have had a direct impact on the legislative process.

**John A. Pérez**, a resident if Los Feliz, received the Harvey Milk award for giving of himself beyond the call of duty in countless ways. This award is dedicated to the memory of assassinated San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk. John grew up in the working class community of Highland Park, just north of downtown Los Angeles. This experience shaped his appreciation for the political process and its impact on the lives of working people. He went on to study Sociology and Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

John has spent a decade and a half as a union organizer and political operative. Currently, he's the Political Director of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 324, and previously served as the Executive Director of the UFCW Region 8 States Council, representing California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii. During this work, he served as the UFCW's primary political contact in the region and successfully increased the union's political engagement and impact. In addition to his work on behalf of UFCW, John is an elected member of the Democratic National Committee, and is a board member of several organizations, including the California League of Conservation Voters, AIDS Project Los Angeles, and Coro Southern California.

I congratulate Howard Jacobs and John A. Pérez for their impressive record of achievement and advocacy for civil rights issues. I also want to commend the other awardees (Reverend Troy Perry, Hilary Selvin, Shirley Bushnell, Sandy Sachs, Randy Bell, Robin Gans, Betty Berzon) in their effort in the fight for the LGBT Community.

## New Leadership – Cont'd from page 4

In 2003, Antonio returned to public service as an LA City Councilmember, representing the eastside and northeast L.A. communities, where he has lived most of his life.

Los Angeles Councilman Bill Rosendahl won election in May 2005 with a commanding mandate for positive change. He represents the 11th District, which includes the communities of Brentwood, Del Rey, Mar Vista, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Palms, Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Venice, West LA and Westchester. Prior to his election, Bill was an educator and an award-winning television broadcaster with a long record as a leader in Los Angeles civic affairs. A Vietnam-era veteran, Bill served in the U.S. Army from 1969-71, spending a year as a psychiatric social worker, counseling troops returning from combat. As special assistant to the commanding general at Ft. Carson, Colorado, he won national recognition for reorganizing the base and boosting morale of the service people.

The City of Los Angeles is very fortunate to have these two strong leaders and I wish them the best of luck.

## 2005 Budget Update – Cont'd from page 5

- No wage cuts to in home health care workers
- Protects child care funding.
- Fully funds higher education and includes more flexible education funding, with no ongoing new programs.
- Fully funds health care programs
- Repayment of \$1.2 billion owed to cities and counties.

Since the State Budget was passed and signed, the Legislature was permitted to take its regularly scheduled summer recess from July 15th through August 15th. When they reconvene on August 15th, they'll kick off a month-long frenzy of activity to complete key legislative business before the Legislature adjourns for the year on September 9th. Hundreds of bills will move through the fiscal committees in each house and will be voted on by the full Senate and full Assembly. In addition, in August, dozens and dozens of pieces of legislation will arrive on the Governor's desk for his consideration. It will be a busy summer in Sacramento!

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